

FAX

ATTN. AG John Ashcroft

Fax Number 1-202-307-1454

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FROM Keith D. Wheeler

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SUBJECT

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Date 1/25/02

MESSAGE

KEITH D. WHEELER

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January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

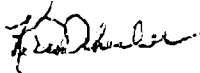
Dear Mr. Ashcroft: ,

I am writing to say that the lawsuit against Microsoft has gone on now for entirely too long. I am a proponent of a free market economy and this lawsuit seems to do everything to undermine the underlying reason to be innovative. How can our government go after a company that has created jobs, generated wealth, and made technological breakthroughs? The case was flawed from the beginning.

The terms of the settlement show this in that they do little to protect consumer rights. The settlement forces Microsoft to disclose interfaces internal to the Windows operating system products and also prohibits them from entering into agreements that obligate third parties from exclusively distributing Microsoft products. These concessions reflect the intense lobbying efforts of competitors.

I believe it is in the public's best interests to have this case settled. Our economy cannot afford further litigation and that is why I am appalled at the nine states holding out. Please implement the settlement as soon as possible and suppress any state opposition. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Keith D. Wheeler

cc: Representative Jeff Flake